

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for considering the present application. In the Office Action dated November 6, 2003, claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the application in view of the amendments above and remarks below.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-15, and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gutta* (6,424,273) in view of *Breed* (2002/0005778).

Claim 1 has been amended to be directed to a rear-facing camera generating a plurality of images. The camera has a rear field of view adjacent to a blind spot. A controller generates a size and position signal for the rear approaching vehicle from the plurality of images. The controller activates an indicator when the rear approaching vehicle transitions into a blind spot from the rear field of view as determined in response to the size and position signal. Thus, claim 1 has been amended to be directed to a system with a rear-facing camera having a rear field of view that is adjacent to a blind spot. Claim 2 has been amended to include that the view may be adjacent to a portion of the blind spot.

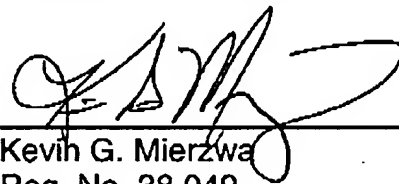
Both the *Gutta* reference and the *Breed* reference are directed to a blind spot system having a side camera that is directed to the blind spot. Claim 1 and the other independent claims activate an indicator when the vehicle transitions into a blind spot from the rear field of view. Thus, the present invention indirectly determines the vehicle in a blind spot rather than directly measuring through a camera as in the *Gutta* and *Breed* references. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner for

reconsideration of claims 1, 7 and 13. Likewise, the dependent claims are also believed to be allowable since they are further limitations of their base claims.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicants submit that all rejections are now overcome. The applicants have added no new material to the application by these amendments. The application is now in condition for allowance and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Please charge any fees required in the filing of this amendment to Deposit Account 06-1510.

Respectfully submitted,



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